



THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I

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News Release

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Committee on the Status of Women announces students placing top honors in the 2020 Women's History Essay Contest

The Kaua'i Committee on the Status of Women is proud to announce students placing top honors in the 2020 Women's History Essay Contest.

The Kaua'i Committee on the Status of Women awarded third place to Mosiah Bautista. Mosiah is the son of Joel Bautista and was a senior at Kaua'i High School.

"Mr. Bautista shared a role model that aligned with the values his parents instilled in him. We are proud that he continues to maintain integrity and honesty in his daily life," said Chair Darcie Yukimura. "Mr. Bautista is from the Class of 2020 and graduated from Kaua'i High School. We send our fondest congratulations and wish him much success."

In celebration of Women's History month and to mark the 100-year anniversary of the 19th Amendment (granting women voting rights), the committee opened the contest to all Kauai public, private, charter and home-schooled high school students. They were asked to submit a one-page essay about a woman who inspired them and how. Prizes were awarded to the top four and the remaining entrants were awarded a consolation prize. The theme of the 2020 Women's History Month was "The Valiant Women of the Vote."

Fourth place went to Autumn Lee and her essay will be featured in a following press release. This is the third in a four-part series that highlighted the students winning essays. First >



place winner Darian Martin and second place winner Kirra Lindman was featured in previous press releases.

The Committee on the Status of Women is part of the County of Kaua'i Boards and Commissions, and the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, which develops and promotes education, interactive opportunities on issues relating to women and girls, prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, and encouraging health and wellness awareness. You may visit the Committee on the Status of Women Website at www.kauai.gov/kccsw.

For more information please contact the Office of Boards and Commissions, Ellen Ching eching@kauai.gov or Sandra Muragin smuragin@kauai.gov.



Photo caption: Mosiah is the son of Joel Bautista and was a Senior at Kaua'i High School.

Mosiah's essay is featured below:

A woman that I admire is Professor Solita Monsod of the Philippines. She has taught at the University of the Philippines since 1963. Professor Monsod appeals to me because she embodies what my parents have taught me and what I strive to be. She is an influential woman in the Philippines who is loyal to her country and herself, and has a direct positive effect on those around her. I, too, want to have a positive impact on people after graduating from college, and I feel like that positive influence is something I must give in order to be satisfied with my life.

I discovered Professor Monson through my parents watching one of her speeches on YouTube. In this lecture, she urged her students to place honor before excellence. "Do you know what the University motto is? Honor and excellence. Honor first before excellence. It's not excellence and honor, it's honor and excellence." Hearing her speech, it reminded me of my parents' teachings and made me think of how they raised me. Additionally, she enforced the idea that we all have what it takes to pass, and no one is trying to make you fail; only you can make yourself fail. This opened my eyes and really made me rethink how I viewed school and my own personal work.

Additionally, in her lecture, she talked about cheating and she asked her students to pledge to her that they would act with honor and integrity. "You do not have to cheat. And cheating in the small things is going to lead to cheating in the large things...Because once you cheat, you are now no longer part of the solution anymore, you are going to be very much a part of the problem." In the Philippines, it is documented that the government is very corrupt therefore this line really stood out to me. It made me think of my grandparents and why they moved to America. In the Philippines, it's hard to make honest money, and as a result, many Filipinos leave the Philippines in order to make money to support their families. However, Professor Monsod stayed in the Philippines and is actively helping by ingraining good morals into her students, so that she can feel assured that the future of the Philippines is in good hands.

Going into adulthood, I recognize that this speech is important and can be applied to my own life. In the real world, one of the struggles I may face is maintaining my integrity and honor before excellence, and to not be tempted by corruption and money. Her speech about honor and excellence resonated within me and inspired me to be a positive influence on my family, community, and country. Quoting Professor Monsod, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something."

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